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Message Text

SECRET

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53
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 AID-10 SPC-01 L-02

NEA-06 PM-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 AF-04 IO-03 DRC-01 /080 W
---------- 083459
R 100934Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION USUN
CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 13692

LIMDIS

BANGKOK PASS RED

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EAID, PINS, RP
SUBJECT: US INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF MINDANAO

1. THE PHILIPPINE EFFORT TO WOO THE ARABS IN RETURN FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN THE OIL TRADE HAS TAKEN ON A NE DIMENSION WHICH WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT U.S. AID AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE MUSLIM AREAS OF MINDANAO. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS TOLD ME, WITH SOME DELICADEZA, THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER A CONSPICUOUS U.S.
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P*GE 02 MANILA 13692 101053Z

PRESENCE OR PROGRAM IN T*E MUSLIM AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINES

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A SOURCE OF POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO HIS INTERNATIONAL
POLITICS.

2. THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN AMONG THE ARABS ANTEDATES,
OF COURSE, THE CURRENT OIL CRISIS. IT WAS UNDERTAKEN IN
UVFIRST INSTANCE IN AN EFFORT TO DISSUADE ISLAMIC
STATES (PARTICULARLY LIBYA) FROM MEDDLING IN THE MUSLIM
PROBLEM. IT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL
VISIT OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO THE PHILIPPINES
IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

3. NOW, HOWEVER, WITH MANILA DESPERATELY ATTEMPTING TO
SCRAMBLE ONTO THE OAPEC "FRIENDLY" LIST, THE NATURE OF
PHILIPPINE CONCERN FOR ARAB SENSITIVITIES HAS BECOME
MORE ACUTE. THEREFORE, MARCOS IS EXAMINING HIS
GOVERNMENT'S STEPS WITH INCREASING CARE. IN ASKING US
TO LIMIT OUR ACTIVITY IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, MARCOS MADE
REFERENCE TO "RUMORS" THAT THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF U.S.-
ISRAELI COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD
IMPINGE ON THE MUSLIMS.

4. WHILE THESE "RUMORS" ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION, WE HAVE
LEARNED THEY ARE BASED ON FACT THAT (A) EAGER YOUNG
PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HAD INDEED ASKED FOR
ISRAELI ASSISTANCE, AND (B) THERE WAS CONFUSION CONCERNING
PURPOSE OF SEVERAL RECENT USAID AND RED VISITS TO MUSLIM
MINDANAO.

5. I HAVE TOLD MARCOS WE HAVE NO PASSIONATE YEARNING
TO BE INVOLVED IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, AND WOULD THEREFORE BE QUITE
WILLING TO LIMIT OUR PRESENCE TO CURRENT LEVELS. IN
SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WHICH USAID DIRECTOR AND I HAVE
HAD WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR, WE HAVE REACHED
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THOSE LIMITED ACTIONS WHICH WE WILL
CONTINUE TO PURSUE. I HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED AN INFORMAL
TRAVEL CONTROL ARRANGEMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF THE DCM
IN ORDER TO DECREASE THE FREQUENCY OF OFFICIAL U.S. TRIPS
TO THE AREA AND TO ASSURE THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY COORDINATED
WITH PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES.

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6. DEPT. WILL DOUBTLESS WISH TO TAKE THESE D*VELOP*ENTS
INTO ACCOUNT IN FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF NSSM 180.
SULLIVAN

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